



Coming to the Father  
by faithfully  
following Jesus the Way,  
believing Jesus the Truth,  
and Receiving from Him  
the Life He's Received  
from the Father

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*In the Father's Footsteps*

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OK Fellowship of Catholic Men

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## Following Jesus to the Father

- Three days ago: “Repent and Believe in the Gospel.”
- Theme of Repentance to Faithfulness: turning *away from* whatever draws us from God, turning *toward* God, and finally turning *with* God, literally *con-verting*.
- Jesus came into the world to show us how to change, to come to him, to be with him, to follow him, to turn with him, to be sent out with him.



## Following Jesus to the Father

- “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (Jn 14:6).
- Jesus is the path to follow to the Father.
  - “Come, follow me!” (Mt 19:21)
  - “I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do” (Jn 13:15)
- Jesus is the incarnation of the truth of God who teaches us about the truth of who God is, who we are, and the way to live in God’s image and likeness.
- Jesus is the life. He came so that we might have life to the full.
  - “Just as the Father who has life sent me and I have life because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will have life because of me” (Jn 6:57).



## Following Jesus to the Father

- All of us are called on the exodus from repentance to faithfulness, all of us are called to turn with Jesus to the Father and toward others, all of us are called to yoke ourselves to Christ as our Way, Truth and Life in all aspects of our life.
- Today we're challenged to focus in a particular way on how to do so as Catholic men. Jesus became not just human, but became a man, and he shows us not just the essence of holy humanity but holy masculinity. He reveals to us how to be a son. He is the icon of the Father and reveals to us how to unleash the full paternal meaning of our masculinity. He shows us how to treat each other as true brothers.
- He teaches us the way to live as men, the truth about authentic masculinity, and the life that we're called to receive and give.



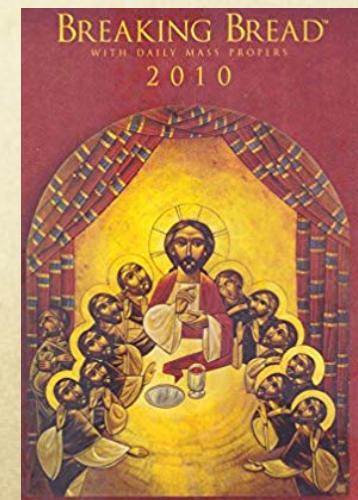
# The Crisis of Contemporary Manliness

- There is a widespread crisis of manliness in culture and in the Church.
- There are various causes:
  - Radical Feminist attack on masculine virtue.
  - Gender theory
  - Bad role models: from wimps, to hypermacho supermen, to flawed athletes and celebrities. Very few imitable good men depicted in movies, on television and in contemporary literature.
  - Likewise not enough role models in the Church today of saintly, manly bishops, priests, deacons, catechists, dads.



# The Crisis of Contemporary Manliness

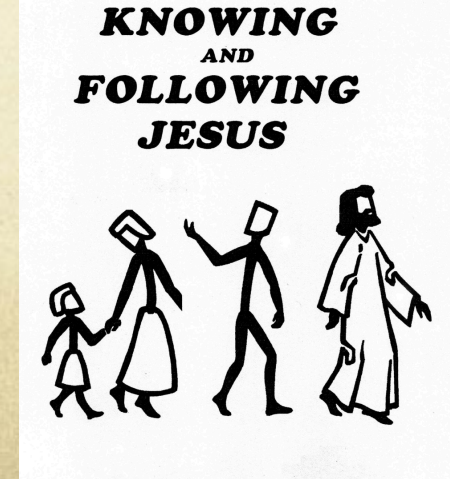
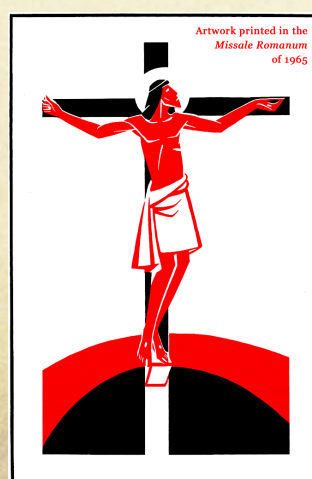
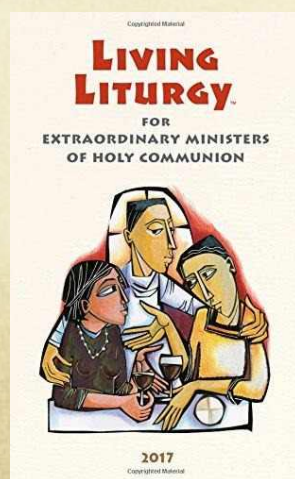
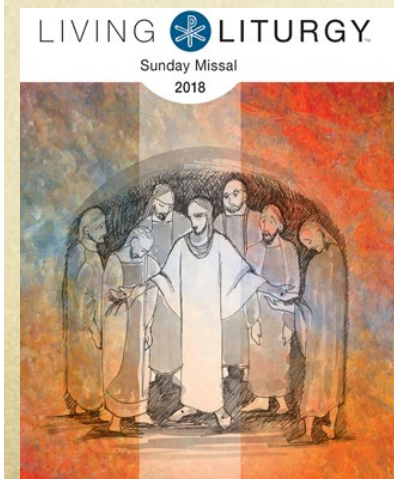
- “Behold the Man”: Problem with images of Jesus.
- Robert Powell’s 1977 famous depiction in *Jesus of Nazareth*
- Stick-figure, weak depictions in crucifixes, bulletin covers, and catechetical textbooks. Un-inspiring kische statues of the Sacred Heart.
- Misunderstanding of Jesus’ meekness as well as his words about “turning the other cheek.”





# The Crisis of Contemporary Manliness

- The result is that meditation on Jesus often does not have the impact on Christian men that it should. They're often not challenged to imitate his manliness, because to radical feminists and those under the sway of their ideas, Jesus' manliness is offensive. Some radical feminists in the Church have even tried to eliminate referring to God the Father or God the Son as "he."





## Questions for Christian Men

- Jesus says, “No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher.” (Lk 6:40). Are we becoming more and more like him?
- Are we building on identity as Christian men on the rock of Jesus’ manly identity or on some form of quicksand? (Mt 7:24-27)
- How much does becoming one with Jesus in Holy Communion affect our overall identity as Christian men?
- When Jesus came to the Nazareth synagogue, people took offense at him. Jesus said, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house” (Mt 13:57). Do we honor him as he comes or take him, and the way he shows, and the truth he teaches, and the life he loving imparts, for granted?





## Ten Traits of Jesus' Masculinity

- Going through the Gospels, we see Jesus' manly virtues on display.
- Some are easily appreciated as manly virtues in most cultures; some others are not because manliness is misunderstood.
- There are lots of ways to describe Jesus' masculine virtues and to order them. Different people could label and organize them in diverse ways. Today we'll focus together on ten, which show us how to live as sons, as fathers, and as faithful brothers.
- Most important thing for Christian men is not to know about these virtues but with the God-man's help to imitate them!



## Son

- Jesus tried to help us ground our identity in the Father's love and the reality of our divine filiation, our sonship.
  - “The Father himself loves you” (Jn 16:27)
  - “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come” (Lk 11:2)
  - “What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?” (Lk 11:11-13)



## Son

- Jesus' identity flowed from awareness of his own divine filiation.
- Baptism: “A voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’” (Mt 3:17).
- Transfiguration: “Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my chosen Son; listen to him.’” (Lk 9:35).
- His prayers all focused on the Father, to whom he commended his spirit.



## Son

- He revealed to others his relationship with the Father so that we might enter through him into that loving bond.
- “The Father and I are one” (Jn 10:30).
- “The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him.” (Jn 3:35)
- “I am not alone, because the Father is with me” (Jn 16:32).
- “Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does, his son will do also. For the Father loves his Son and shows him everything that he himself does.” (Jn 5:19-20)
- “How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ... Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me” (Jn 14:9-11)



## Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

- So much of the crisis of manliness flows from a crisis of fatherhood.
- Cardinal Ratzinger on the Crisis of Fatherhood (Palermo, 2000)
  - “The crisis of fatherhood we are living today is an element, perhaps the most important, threatening man in his humanity.”
  - “The dissolution of fatherhood,” flowing from reducing it merely to a biological phenomenon, leads to the “dissolution of what it means to be a son or daughter” and impedes our relationship to relate to God as he is and revealed himself.



## Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

- The consequences of this dissolution are great.
  - Explosion of kids born out of wedlock (40% in 2014 compared to 6% in 1960; 53% for Hispanics; 71% for Blacks)
  - 43% of US children live without their father.
  - Effects of fatherlessness in much higher rates of youth violence, suspensions, crime, incarcerations, sexual abuse, neglect, drugs, suicides, homelessness, runaways, behavioral disorders, obesity, staying back, school dropouts, child poverty, promiscuity, teenage pregnancy.



## Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

- Pope Benedict, 2012 General Audience:
  - “Perhaps men today do not perceive the beauty, the grandeur and the profound consolation contained in the word ‘father’ by which we may address God in prayer, because the father figure today is often not sufficiently present; and this presence is often not adequately positive in daily life. A father’s absence ... is a great problem of our time; and therefore, it becomes difficult to understand the profound significance of what it means to say that God is a Father to us.”
  - **“We can learn from Jesus Himself, and from His filial relationship with God, what being a ‘father’ truly means, and the true nature of the Father who is in heaven. Critics of religion have said that to speak of the ‘Father,’ of God, would be a projection of our human fathers onto heavenly realities. But the opposite is true: in the Gospel, Christ shows us who a father is and what a true father is like, so that we may sense what true fatherhood is, and also learn true fatherhood.”**



# Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

- Jesus' own "Fatherhood"
  - Most often we are accustomed to understanding Christ according to his being the eternal Son of God.
  - Many Patristic sources (Saints Melito of Sardis, Ireneus, and Justin Martyr, the Letter to Diognetus) looked at him as Son insofar as he is generated by the Father **and as father insofar as he generates eternal life in us through his passion, death and resurrection.**
  - Jesus is the icon or image of the Father from whom every fatherhood in heaven and on earth takes its name (Eph 3:14-15).
  - He is the New Adam, the father of a renewed humanity, transmitting to his children a new principle of life that transcends death.
  - His fatherhood is virginal (eschatological) and spiritual (communicating fullness of God's spirit).





# Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

1. The Father takes delight in his children
  - “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased,” God the Father thunders at Jesus’ baptism (Mt 3:17).
  - Fathers must express their love for their children. This is obviously a key point and an underpinning for all paternal interactions.
2. The Father loves unconditionally
  - Jesus says the Father makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Mt 5:45).
  - The Father cares about every one, 100 out of 100: “So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish” (Mt 18:14)



## Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

3. The Father is generous and responsible
  - “Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Mt 6:26)
  - “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” (Mt 7:11)
  
4. The Father is observant
  - He sees what is done in secret and rewards (Mt 6:4).
  - He pays such good attention that he knows what is needed even before it is asked (Mt 6:8)



## Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

5. The Father is merciful
  - We see his nature in the parable of the prodigal son. (Lk 15)
  - Jesus calls all his followers to be merciful as the heavenly father is merciful, to forgive as the father forgives. (Lk 6:36)
  
6. The Father instructs those who are docile
  - “At that time Jesus declared, ‘I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will.’” (Mt 11:25-26)
  - “And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.’” (Mt 16:17)
  - “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Every one who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that any one has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father.” (Jn 6:44)



# Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

## 7. The Father disciplines

- We see throughout the Old Testament how God disciplines and instructs the Israelites.
- Drawing from these lessons, St. Paul writes, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph 6:4)
- “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’ ... God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ... He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Heb 12:5-11)
- There is an obvious importance of our disciplining as fathers so that through us the Holy Spirit can form true disciples. We can't have disciples without discipline!



## Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

### 8. The Father works

- “My Father is at work until now, so I am at work. ... The works that the Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me.” (Jn 5:17, 36).
- How important it is for fathers in general and spiritual fathers in particular to be hard workers!

### 9. The Father wants to share eternal life with his children

- “For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (Jn 6:40)
- We are called to be pro-creators of this life through our spiritual fatherhood.



# Jesus the Son Reveals God's Fatherhood

- Jesus himself showed these nine traits
- Jesus wants all men, called to grow in the image and likeness of God, called to “follow Jesus” to seek to emulate these qualities.
- We are called to:
  - Take delight
  - Love unconditionally
  - Be generous, giving ourselves
  - Observe providentially and gratefully
  - Be Merciful
  - Pass on wisdom
  - Discipline with and out of love
  - Work
  - Share life and spur others to eternity



## Chaste Bridegroom

- Jesus identified himself as the long-awaited Bridegroom prophesied by Isaiah and Hosea.
  - “Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days.” (Lk 5:34-35)
  - “The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man, who stands and listens to him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice.” (Jn 3:29)
  - “Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.” (Lk 12:35).
- Jesus was a chaste, virginal spouse who called us all to purity of heart, since lust changes the intentionality of a human being from a self-giver to a taker.
  - “Blessed are the pure of heart” (Mt 5:8)
  - “The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be.” (Mt 6:22-23).



## Courageous, Protective and Encouraging Shepherd

- Jesus identified himself as the Good Shepherd, who knows and calls his sheep by name, leads them out, lays down his life for his sheep, and gives them eternal life (Jn 10:1-18; 26-28).
- He says that he would leave the 99 to go after the one stray sheep (Mt 18:12-14; Lk 15:4-6)
- He calls us to be good sheep who listen to him, follow him, and eventually become good shepherds like him of others.





## Courageous, Protective, and Encouraging Shepherd

- As the Good Shepherd, he constantly sought to protect others
  - “Why do you make trouble for the woman? She has done a good thing for me.” (Mt 26:10)
  - “Leave her alone” (Jn 12:7)
  - “And they said to him, ‘The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same; but yours eat and drink.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?’” (Lk 5:33-35)
  - “Some Pharisees said, ‘Why are you doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?’ Jesus said to them in reply, ‘Have you not read what David did when he and those [who were] with him were hungry?’” (Lk 6:1-3)



## Courageous, Protective, and Encouraging Shepherd

- Jesus would in turn encourage others:
  - “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” (Mt 14:27)
  - “Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven” (Mt 5:11-12).
  - “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul” (Mt 10:28)
  - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” (Jn 14:1)
  - “In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.” (Jn 16:33)



## Wise Teacher

- “When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.” (Mk 6:34).
- Jesus was constantly teaching, on mountainsides, along journeys, from boats, in synagogues and the temple precincts, with parables, sermons, questions, citations.
- He taught with an authority that amazed and astonished.
- He used some many accessible images, seeds, fields, patches, wineskins, salt, light, buried treasure, fishing, farming and more.
- He taught so that others might follow: “You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” (Jn 13:13-15).



## Prayerful

- He was constantly going to converse with his Father in secret, in his “inner room.” His prayer was always to his Father.
- He would pray on mountains, in boats, early in the morning, in a garden at night, and before almost all of the major moments of his life.
- “Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed” (Mk 1:35)
- “He departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles” (Lk 6:12-13)
- He was regularly teaching about the dispositions of prayer, which he himself modeled. He is a model of manly prayer.



# Prudent

- Jesus was the model of the prudence to which he called all of us.
- Jesus was constantly extricating himself from predicaments by his prudence:
  - “Is it lawful to pay the census tax or not” (Mt 22:17-19)
  - “By what authority are you doing these things?” (Mt 21:23-27)
  - “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” (Jn 8:7)
  - “You are misled because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God” (Mt 22:29)
- He similarly summoned us to prudence:
  - “Be as shrewd as serpents but as wise as doves” (Mt 10:16).
  - “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property” (Mt 24:45-47).



## Meek

- This is perhaps the most misunderstood of the masculine virtues of Jesus.
- Meekness is not weakness. It is the self-mastery, an interior strength, that does not need to reveal its power, even when provoked.
- Jesus wanted us to learn it from him: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart” (Mt 11:29)



# Meek

- We see his meekness throughout the Gospel
  - It was prophesied of him: “He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory” (Mt 12:19).
  - “Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?” (Mt 26:53-54)
  - Jesus was “silent” before the high priest (Mt 26:63), did not answer Pilate (Mt 27:24), did not retaliate when the soldiers mocked him (Mt 27:29-31; Lk 22:64-65), when the thieves, chief priests and passerby mocked him (Mk 15:29-32).
  - “So Pilate said to him, ‘Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?’ Jesus answered [him], ‘You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above’” (Jn 19:10)



## Meek

- Jesus wasn't being defeated by meekness, but *triumphing*!
  - By worldly eyes he had lost, but his ways are not ours!
  - He had predicted his suffering at least three times.
  - “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” (Lk 24:25-26)
  - “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?” (Mk 12:10-11).
  - This was the means by which he showed his power: “For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor 1:22-24)





# Meek

- Jesus called us to meekness:
  - “Blessed are the meek” (Mt 5:5)
  - “But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.” (Lk 6:27-30)



## Disciplined and Challenging

- We can see his self-discipline in his capacity to say no to his appetites in order to say yes to the will of the Father
  - “He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry” (Mt 4:2)
  - “When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites...” (Mt 6:16)
  - “Then the disciples of John approached him and said, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast [much], but your disciples do not fast?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast’” (Mt 9:14-15)
- He showed his determination with the focus he had toward his passion:
  - “When the days for his being taken up were fulfilled, he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem” (Lk 9:51)



## Disciplined and Challenging

- He called us to a similar determination, asceticism and the discipline that makes disciples
  - “Strive to enter through the narrow gate...” (Lk 13:24)
  - “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.” (Mt 5:29-30)
  - “Greet no one along the way” (Lk 10:4)



## Disciplined and Challenging

- The Gospel is full of these challenges:
  - “Come and follow me” (Mt 4:19)
  - “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Mt 16:24)
  - “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Mt 19:21)
  - “Another of [his] disciples said to him, “Lord, let me go first and bury my father.” But Jesus answered him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead.” (Mt 8:21-22)
  - The scene with the Canaanite woman, to whom he didn’t say a word, then said he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, then said it was not right to throw the food of the children to the dogs, before he said, “Woman great is your faith” (Mt 15:22-28)
  - “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ... “But who do you say that I am?” (Mt 16:13-15)
  - “Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?” (Mt 20:22)
  - “Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.” (Mt 20:26-27)



## Disciplined and Challenging

- Jesus challenged people (*continued*):
  - “My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?” (Mt 22:12)
  - “He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.” (Mt 25:20-21)
  - “If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ... everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” (Lk 14:26-33)
  - “Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you” (Jn 6:26)
  - “Then many of his disciples who were listening said, ‘This saying is hard; who can accept it?’ Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, ‘Does this shock you?’ Jesus then said to the Twelve, ‘Do you also want to leave?’” (Jn 6:60-67)
  - “Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.” (Jn 12:25-26)



# Peacemaking

- Jesus is the long awaited “Prince of Peace” (Is 9:6)
- He came to give us definitive peace with God through the forgiveness of sins
  - “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you” (Jn 14:27)
  - “Peace be with you!” (Jn 20:19)
- This peace with God doesn’t mean that we will have peace with others
  - “Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword.” (Mt 10:34)
- He says that if behave as true children of God we will be, not peace *wishers*, but peacemakers.
  - “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Mt 5:9)
- Sometimes we can’t avoid conflict, but men of God should not seek to foment conflict but to be reconcilers.



## A Team Former

- Jesus formed a team of manly men around him, those who would give their lives.
  - “As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, ‘Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.” (Mt 4:18-22)
  - “The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.” (Mt 10:2-3)
- His team was ultimately a family
  - “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.” (Mt 12:49-50)
- He wanted others on the team
  - “Whoever is not against us is for us.” (Mk 9:40)



# A Team Former

- He prayed for those who would join the team
  - “I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word” (Jn 17:18)
- He wanted them to become not just his followers but friends
  - “I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. 16 It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.” (Jn 15:15-16)
- He gave them his authority and explicit instructions and formation: to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel instead of to pagans or Samaritans, to announce the kingdom, to exorcise, heal and resuscitate, to give freely, depend on his providence, not to look for a better deal, to extend his peace, not to bear grudges, to recognize their sheep among wolves.
- He chose them to complete his mission
  - “As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world” (Jn 17:18)
  - “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (Jn 20:21)
  - “You are witnesses of these things” (Lk 24:48)





# Imitating Jesus' Manly Virtues

Son	Prudent
Chaste Bridegroom	Meek
Courageous, Encouraging Shepherd	Disciplined and Challenging
Wise Teacher	Peacemaking
Prayerful	A Team Former



## Imitating Jesus' Manly Virtues

- In response to the crisis of masculinity today, in society and the Church, Christian men are called to step forward, in their homes, in their communities, in the Church.
- We're called to repent of those times we haven't lived in accordance with the truth of who we are, the times where we have not imitated Jesus' virtues, the times that we have not received the life he gives us through the sacraments and sought to be instruments to pass that life on to others.
- Christian men are also called to train the younger generations in manly virtues during a time in which our culture is not only not transmitting them but transmitting so many unmanly vices.
- "Ecce Homo" (Jn 19:5)
- "Esto vir!" (2 Sam 10:12)



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Fr. Roger J. Landry

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The screenshot shows the homepage of [catholicpreaching.com](http://www.catholicpreaching.com). The header includes the site name and a search bar. The main content area features a welcome message from Fr. Roger J. Landry, followed by a list of "Most Recent Homilies", "Most Recent Articles", and "Most Recent Talks".

**Welcome!**

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.  
Believe what you read.  
Teach what you believe.  
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.

Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts.

It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,  
Fr. Roger J. Landry

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Most Recent Homilies	Most Recent Articles	Most Recent Talks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Bearing Fruit Attached to the Vine, 12th Wednesday (II), June 27, 2018</li><li>▪ Following the Lead of the Precursor, Solemnity of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 2018</li><li>▪ Placing Our Heart and Treasure in God, 11th Friday (I), June 22, 2018</li><li>▪ Longing to See God's Face in Prayer and in Others, 10th Friday (I), June 15, 2018</li><li>▪ The Surpassing Righteousness of Christ-like Merciful Love, 10th Thursday (I), June 14, 2018</li><li>▪ Greatest in the Kingdom, 10th Wednesday (I), June 13, 2018</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Secular Push to Get Priests to Break the Seal, The Anchor, June 29, 2018</li><li>▪ Approaching the Suicide Surge with Honesty and Resolve, The Anchor, June 15, 2018</li><li>▪ The Abortion Exception to the Practice of Discrimination, The Anchor, June 1, 2018</li><li>▪ The Contemporary Attack on Motherhood, The Anchor, May 18, 2018</li><li>▪ The Euthanasia of Alfie Evans, The Anchor, May 4, 2018</li><li>▪ "Do Not Be Afraid of Holiness," The Anchor, April 20, 2018</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Church and International Diplomacy, Acton University, June 20, 2018</li><li>▪ The Entrepreneurial Vocation, Acton University, June 20, 2018</li><li>▪ The Social Teaching of Pope St. John Paul II, Acton University, June 20, 2018</li><li>▪ The Necessity and Art of Trinitarian Prayer, Catholic Medical Association Boot Camp, June 18, 2018</li><li>▪ Christ, the Redeemer of Marriage: Living and Proclaiming the Gospel of the Sacramentality of Marriage at a Time When Sex, Love,</li></ul>